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LB 321, 880

on this. I did oppose taking it out at that time. It was...it was fairly sudden. I think there was not widespread understanding of what actually did occur. I understand Senator Pedersen can make his own defense for that, and I think we can have some debate on this particular issue. But I have become convinced that this is a much broader way to do community correctional services under the Department of Corrections, by the way, I want to make that clear. If there is to be further discussion on this issue, perhaps it would be wise to have a study into the future to determine what best source it ought to be. But, in the meantime, I think it's mostly proper to go ahead and allow these \$500,000 worth of grants to be administered, go to community...to the communities that have worked on these programs, that have programs fit for the areas and the communities that they think fits them the best and let that proceed. And if there is a difference of opinion as to who to administer these programs, whether it be probation or, under the Office of Probation, or whether it should be under the Office of Community Corrections. By the way, if it's under Corrections, it can involve the parolees, county, inmates. It has a much broader range than those that are on probation, which are only under probation. This particular program and this particular approach has a much broader range of activities for more people, a wider range of people, to be used. So I would submit to you, it's more flexible and broader based. But if there's a difference of opinion here as to which that should go and I would say that it's not clear. I know that Senator Brashear, which I wish was here, has another view of this too or at least has a view of this which LB 321 is in committee. Senator Pedersen has another view. I would just ask you to listen to the debate, but I would ask that we restore this particular language to allow this program to continue forward, at least for the next year or two, and if there's a desire for you to change that and to change the administration and the kind of programs and types of programs to be offered, that we look at it then in light of all of the facts that we could possibly garner. So I will conclude at this point, Mr. President, and let the debate begin.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Further discussion, Senator Dwite Pedersen.